

Dusen's leadership, tackled some of the most difficult ethics issues confronting the modern bar and his entire career has been dedicated to maintaining and improving the ethics of his chosen profession.

Mr. Van Dusen led the esteemed firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath for 35 years, beginning his law career at Drinker in 1935. He is currently counsel to the firm. His areas of concentration have included litigation, labor, transportation, estate planning, environmental and international law.

Mr. Van Dusen was chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1968 and president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1974 and 1975. In addition, Mr. Van Dusen is also a member of the International Bar Association.

Mr. Van Dusen served with distinction in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 ultimately as lieutenant colonel. Mr. Van Dusen was honored for his service when awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Decorated Purple Heart, Legion of Merit of the United States, and Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre of France.

Mr. Van Dusen was one of the founders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]. In addition, he has been active in the American Philosophical Society, the American Judicature Society, the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He also serves as a permanent member of the Judicial Conference for the Third Circuit and from 1980 to 1982, he served on the Committee to Study Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System.

Mr. Van Dusen is the consummate Philadelphia lawyer. I am proud to bring this well deserved honor to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST ARMENIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FRESNO

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The Armenian commitment to religion is symbolized by the birth and expansion of this church.

The First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno was the first Armenian church organized in the State of California. It began on July 25, 1897 when 40 men and women met in a hall in Fresno. The church was duly received and enrolled in the fellowship of Presbyterian churches by the Presbytery of Stockton at a meeting in Oakland, CA, on October 20, 1897. The first session was formed and the Reverend Avedis Vartanian, Khachig Michaelian, and Hagop Azhderian were elected as the first ruling elders.

The church had its origins in the Armenian Ladies' Patriotic Society established in Fresno on May 1, 1892. The declared purpose of the society was to support orphans, ministers, and evangelists in Armenia. In 1913, the society changed its name to the Women's Benevolent Society of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church and is now commonly known as the Ladies' Aid Society.

The Reverend L.T. Burbank preached the first sermon of the church in the Armenian lan-

guage and was invited and unanimously elected as the first pastor of the church. Following the ministry of Rev. Burbank came the construction of a church building at the corner of Santa Clara and Fulton Streets. This steepled, octagon sanctuary was recognized most notably through the writings of the late William Soroyan, who—as a boy—attended the church and wrote about his experiences.

The communicant membership of the church has grown from 40 charter members to 450. The Sunday school and four Bible study groups are providing Christian education to believers of every age. Fellowship groups minister to the needs of the young, the old, the married, the single, and the Armenian-speaking. Additionally, a building committee has completed the construction of a social hall, the final phase of a 25-year expansion program.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I honor the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA. The focus and religious excellence of the church serves as a model for religious establishments all over the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the First Armenian Presbyterian Church continued success and inspirational religious teachings.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY  
COMPENSATION RESTORATION  
ACT OF 1997

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 1997*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation that will begin to address an inherent unfairness under present law that affects the surviving widows of our Nation's veterans. As you know, many of these veterans gave their lives for our country, yet their surviving spouses are now being denied benefits that were promised to them.

In 1970, Congress enacted legislation that guaranteed widows of military veterans who died from service-connected disability that their dependency and indemnity compensation [DIC] benefits would be reinstated upon the termination of the widow's subsequent marriage(s) by death or divorce.

The apparent rationale behind this reinstatement policy was twofold: first, to encourage DIC widows to remarry, thereby removing them from the DIC rolls and saving the Federal Government money; and second, bring veterans' benefits statutes in line with other Federal survivor programs, e.g. Federal Civil Service employees, Social Security annuitants, which granted reinstatement rights in this instance.

However, in 1990, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which abruptly terminated DIC reinstatement rights for widows who lost these benefits upon remarriage. To make matters worse, the Department of Veterans Affairs never formally notified DIC widows of their loss of reinstatement rights, thereby relegating notice to be disseminated by word-of-mouth or by notices in publications of military and retiree organizations.

As you would suspect, many widows continued to apply to the VA for reinstatement of their benefits, only to learn for the first time that their benefits were being denied. Imagine

the shock and surprise of these widows who were never notified of the change in the law, many making financial planning decisions under the mistaken assumption that they would be eligible for reinstatement if their subsequent marriage ended by death or divorce.

Mr. Speaker, my bill will reinstate DIC eligibility for widows who were remarried before November 1, 1990 and whose second or subsequent marriage is terminated by death or divorce. Recognizing the budget restraints under which Congress must operate, I initially have set the compensation rate at 50 percent of the current DIC rate. The bill would also require the Department of Veterans Affairs to notify all current and previously eligible DIC widows of the change.

I urge all of my colleagues to please consider supporting this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD  
SMITH

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 1997*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend is the 80th birthday of a U.S. institution, Chesterfield Smith. A celebration to take place in Tampa, FL will no doubt include most of the luminaries of the bar over the past half century. Most luminous among them will be the birthday boy.

Chesterfield Smith is truly America's lawyer. Few can imagine—let alone accomplish—many of the things he has. He was one of the first to conceptualize the national law firm. He built one, Holland and Knight, which is a Florida-based powerhouse.

He was also the first to conceptualize an activist agenda for the American Bar Association which he served as president in 1973, and for many years before and since. Then he accomplished it, and that institution was forever changed.

His challenge to his, and my, profession has been to provide quality, affordable legal services for all persons in need. He has fought for funding for the Legal Services Corporation, but also for personal responsibility by individuals and law firms to fill in where Government funding has been lacking. He has always been a role model.

Mr. Speaker, Chesterfield will tell you in his best Southern twang that he's "just a country lawyer." He certainly is. And he's a lot of other things. Probably more than anyone else, Chesterfield Smith has changed the way law is practiced and the way the world's largest law advocacy organization operates. Not bad.

And, Mr. Speaker, let's not speak in the past tense. As one who has collaborated with Chesterfield for more than a quarter century, I know how much he still can do. The next generation of lawyers needs him to conceptualize ever new forms of practice and advocacy.

As one of Chesterfield's many, many fortunate friends and self-appointed leader of his congressional fan club, I send warmest wishes to him, Jacqueline and his partners and colleagues on this very special milestone.